

## **Area Board XIII Special Education Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: 3 Feb 2009

Location: Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway, San Diego 92108

Time: 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Present: ABXIII members Cecilia Corral, Nancy Macklem, and Moira Allbritton.

ABXIII Executive Director, Mary Ellen Stives.

Community members Linda Burritt, Joyce Clark, Elizabeth Fletcher, Leslie Gollub, and Jackie Husson.

Richard Macklem was also in attendance.

Introductions made.

Initial discussion of issues dealt with parent education/training. Specific issues (e.g., bus transportation, difficulties with receiving appropriate and necessary health care at school, etc.) were shared. It was generally agreed that a lot of resources exist for parents but that it has proven difficult to coordinate the groups' efforts. It was suggested that ABXIII's special education committee consider hosting a Resource Fair (including other agencies and advocacy organizations) and/or collect data from these groups and disseminate the data. I.e., ABXIII establish a network of groups and foster dialogue among representatives. Another suggestion involved this committee acting as another resource for parents. Likewise, it was proposed that the committee survey SELPAs to learn about current parent education/training available.

Further brainstorming identified several other areas of continued need in our communities, including:

- \* Post-secondary education services and supports. It was noted that to meet this aim, students must reach post-secondary prepared by early intervention, primary and secondary education. The role of Assistive Technology was identified as an issue common to both the Hehir Report and SDUSD's superintendent's interest.

- \* Meaningful avenues for parental input to school districts, particularly in Imperial County. Where CACs exist, feedback has been that they are not "parent-friendly".

- \* Advocacy support for non-English speaking families. Discussion centered upon how to solicit input from those within our community who encounter this additional obstacle to seeking services for their DD family members.

Discussion of the need for a "Crisis Intervention Unit" model transpired. The committee listed instances in which the educational needs of DD persons are not currently met in our community. (Examples include: hospitalization/in-patient psychiatric services; forensics/justice system; family-related crises in which the student is not in crisis but the ability of the primary caregivers to meet the student's needs are severely affected; and

## **Area Board XIII Special Education Committee Meeting Minutes**

barriers to school attendance (in which the student cannot safely attend school due to lack of health care plan, lack of compliance with IEP, behavioral problems, suspension/expulsion, etc cetera).

The primary goal, by consensus, appears that ABXIII is uniquely positioned to address: Communicate the urgent need for a Crisis Intervention Units model to all Districts within our catchment area.

The committee deliberated how best to serve our constituency. Last year this committee dealt exclusively with San Diego Unified; concern was voiced about continuing to be viewed -- especially by Imperial County -- as not addressing the specific needs of other areas of our regional responsibility. It was remarked that SDUSD, as the largest SELPA, sets the tone for the region. Concern was also raised about interfering in the relationship between SDUSD and its CAC (the entity with the primary responsibility for advising SDUSD's Board of Education). The possibility of our committee working collaboratively with the CAC on areas of overlapping interest was mentioned as consistent with fostering improved inter-agency/inter-group dialogue.

### **Old Business:**

A participant asked for an update on the renaming of classrooms. Area Board XIII's letter on this issue was initially not well-received but some informal conversations on this issue transpired. The group determined that we are committed to working with all districts to use respectful language but that more serious concerns now require our attention.

It was unanimously agreed that our committee would send a letter to SDUSD to clarify our committee structure, new emphasis (goal), reiterate our interest in Mary Ellen Stives' continued involvement in the Special Education Reform process as a member of the Executive Management Workgroup, and request that all further queries/correspondence relating to ABXIII matters be sent to the ABXIII office.

The committee reviewed expectations that committee members would not engage in advocacy with educational vendors on behalf of the Area Board -- except as discussed and delegated by this committee.

### **New Business:**

The committee discussed actively recruiting additional members.

## **Area Board XIII Special Education Committee Meeting Minutes**

Any ABXIII member interested in chairing this committee is encouraged to contact the ABXIII chair, Bill Collins at [bill.collins@fcsw.com](mailto:bill.collins@fcsw.com) ASAP.

The next meeting will be in about one month, in the afternoon, as we are able to secure a public, accessible venue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Moiria Allbritton  
4 Feb 2009

**Minutes unanimously approved by committee on March 18, 2009.**